

January 4, 2001

Ken Ross  
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.  
7301 College Mailstop  
KSOPKVO212  
Overland Park, Kansas 66210

Dear Ken,

Enclosed is a copy of the Joint Petition for the Merger Amendment to the Negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Sprint Communications Company, L.P. and Ameritech Illinois for signature. Our Commission also requires Verification from both parties, signed and notarized.

**Please return signed Joint Petition and your Notarized Verification to me overnight mail.**

My mailing address is:

Mary C. Velez  
Ameritech  
225 West Randolph, Room 27C  
Chicago, IL 60606

Any questions, please feel free to call me on 312 551-9150.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

January 22, 2001

Ms. Donna Caton, Chief Clerk  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9280

Dear Ms. Caton,

Enclosed please find the Joint Petition for Approval of Merger Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement between Sprint Communications Company, L.P., and Ameritech Illinois.

Please acknowledge receipt by returning the extra copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

<b>ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY</b>	)	
<b>(Ameritech Illinois)</b>	)	
<b>and Sprint Communications Company, L.P.</b>	)	
	)	<b>01 - _____</b>
<b>Joint Petition for Approval of Merger</b>	)	
<b>Amendment to the Negotiated</b>	)	
<b>Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2000</b>	)	
<b>pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252</b>	)	

**JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE MERGER AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
NEGOTIATED INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, L.P. AND AMERITECH ILLINOIS**

Illinois Bell Telephone Company (“Ameritech Illinois”) and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. through counsel, hereby request that the Commission review and approve the attached Merger Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2000 pursuant to Sections 252(a)(1) and 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 47 U.S.C. §§ 252 (a)(1), 252(e), (the “Act”) and FCC Order in Docket No. 98-141. In support of their request, the parties state as follows:

1. The Parties have agreed that the Interconnection Agreement be amended to provide for certain terms and conditions and have entered into this Amendment to set forth such terms and conditions.

2. Pursuant to Section 252(e)(2) the Commission may only reject a negotiated agreement if it finds that (1) the agreement discriminates against another carrier or (2) implementation of the Agreement would not be consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. Neither basis for rejection is present here.

3. Copies of the Merger Amendment are available for public inspection in Ameritech Illinois and Sprint's public offices.

WHEREFORE, Ameritech Illinois and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. respectfully request that the Commission approve the attached Merger Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement under Section 252(e) of the Act as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2001

Ameritech Illinois

Sprint Communications Company, L.P.

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Mark Kerber/Mary Beth Jorgensen  
Ameritech Services, Inc.  
225 West Randolph Street, 25D  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 727-7140  
Counsel

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Ken Ross  
Sprint Communications Company, L.P.  
7301 College Mailstop, KSOPKVO212  
Overland Park, Kansas 66210  
(913) 534-6156

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

<b>ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY</b>	)	
<b>(Ameritech Illinois)</b>	)	
<b>and Sprint Communications Company, L.P.</b>	)	
	)	<b>00 - _____</b>
<b>Joint Petition for Approval of Merger</b>	)	
<b>Amendment to the Negotiated</b>	)	
<b>Interconnection Agreement dated July 24, 2000,</b>	)	
<b>pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252</b>	)	

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOINT PETITION FOR APPROVAL**

I, James Oxler, Area Manager-Negotiations for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company/Illinois Bell Telephone Company Negotiations and Interconnection, submit this Statement in Support of the Joint Petition for Approval of the Merger Amendment to the Negotiated Interconnection Agreement between Sprint Communications Company, L.P. and Ameritech Illinois.

The attached Merger Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement (“Agreement”) between Illinois Bell Telephone Company (“Ameritech Illinois”) and Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (“Sprint”) was reached through voluntary negotiations between the parties. Accordingly, Ameritech Illinois and Sprint requests approval pursuant to Sections 252(a)(1), 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sometimes referred to as the “Act”) and FCC Order in Docket No. 98-141.

The Agreement meets all the requirements of the Act and the Commission should approve it.

The Agreement is amended as follows:

- Addition of Appendix FCC Merger Conditions to the Agreement
- Table of Contents modified to add additional Appendix

- This Amendment shall not modify or extend the Effective Date or Term of the underlying Agreement, but rather, contains a termination date specific to the FCC Appendix adopted into the Interconnection Agreement which may or may not be coterminous with the underlying Agreement
- Makes other modifications to the Agreement necessary to incorporate the above amendment.